MERCHANTVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
October 14, 2014

The Merchantville Board of Education's Regular Meeting was held on Tuesday, October 14, 2014, at 7:30 p.m., in the school auditorium. Notice of the meeting was published in *The Retrospect.*

Members Present:	Mr. Vitiello, Mrs. Stocker, Mrs. Perno, Ms. Engelke, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Fuentes and Mr. Morrone
Members Absent:	Mr. Honigfeld and Mr. Kabel
Also Present:	Mr. J. Scott Strong, CSA/Principal Ms. Loretta Mansolino, Recording Secretary

The board president led the group in the pledge to the flag of the United States of America.

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the rights of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of the public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place thereof posted in The Retrospect, Borough Hall, Merchantville School and the Reading Center at Merchantville School.

NJSBA Convention – scheduled for October 2014 in Atlantic City, NJ
Bond Referendum – Informational Events are scheduled
Parent, Board of Education and Community Member Ad Hoc Committee – Mr. Morrone is working on the Mission Statement for the committee, and for board members to volunteer to participate.

The following students were recognized for achieving perfect scores on the spring 2014 NJASK Tests. Mr. Strong and Mrs. Perno presented each student with a certificate.

Jordyn Bain	(Math)
Gabrielle Callaway	(Math)
Michael Fiore	(Math)
Lucy Kerr	(Math)
Kelly Conway	(Math & Science)
Makaio Kelii	(Math)
Sigrun Kite	(Science)
Jarrett Pell	(Math & Science)
Harris Ransom	(Math)
Amara Signorile	(Math)
Rachel Wetherspoon	(Math)
Bella Rosa Carfagno	(Math)
Matthew Callaway	(Math)
Kailyn Shepherd	(Math)

A short recess was held.

Mr. Michael McLoone, Chestnut Street, questioned the amount that was included in the bond for playground renovations and installation, and why the video and bond literature did not include the playground area. Mr. McLoone's additional questions included: more details on the perimeter fencing – where, why and the material to be installed, more details on the classroom technology funds budgeted, and the % of the employee raises in the new MEA and Board Agreement.

Mrs. Meachum, Leslie Avenue, questioned the status of the playground funds in the bond referendum, and requested a list of the itemized projects.

Ms. Tkachuk, PTA President, also requested the details for playground funding in the bond referendum.

Mrs. Swann, Clifton Avenue, is the asphalt for the new playground funded by the bond?

Mr. Plenn, Lexington Avenue, what is the composition of product that will be used on the surface area of the playground?

Mr. Chapman, Ivens Avenue, status of the teachers' salary guides and the ratification process.

Mr. Andrew McLoone, Alexander Avenue, is there a Preventive Maintenance Plan in place to maintain the bond renovation projects?

Mr. Strong, in response to Ms. Rubini's questions from the prior board meeting, requesting to meet with Ms. Rubini, it was the teachers' suggestion that the 1st and 2nd grade plays be combined, administration is working with the 8th grade parents on all aspects of the graduation ceremony, the contact time for the world language program was reduced to increase the student math contact time, some teachers were teaching to the standardized test questions to prepare the students for the PARCC tests. A "moral" survey was distributed about 18 months ago, and the results were favorable. The local MEA leadership is attempting to work with recent retirees to complete and return the "exit" surveys, Mr. Strong feels that he did hire the "best" candidates who applied for all the open positions, and that Special Education Law mandates require a collaboration between the parents, teachers and administration.

APPROVE TRIPS

Moved by Fuentes, and seconded by Perno, that the board of education approve the following field trips. All fees for these trips are paid through the Marie J. Carroll Foundation, unless otherwise noted, and there are no costs incurred by the parents or the school district:

Place	Grade / Students	# Students	# Teachers	# Outside Chaperones	Month	Other Info
Johnson's Farm – Medford, NJ	Kindergarten	42	2	8	November	Class Trip
Merchantville Firehouse	1st Grade	42	2	0	October	Walking Trip
Constitution Center and Walking Trip of Philadelphia, PA	5th Grade	40	2	6	April	Class trip
Merchantville Community Center	Garden Club (After School Activity)	30	1	0	Oct, Nov, March, April and, May Held on Thursdays-after school	Garden Club
YMCA Fairview Lake Camp, Newton, NJ	8th Grade Trip	43	4	3	Dec 2014	Overnight Class Trip

Approved by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVE WORKSHOPS

Moved by Fuentes, and seconded by Perno, that the board of education approve the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator for attendance at the following Professional Development Workshops:

Attendee	Event	Place of Event	Date	Cost
Vanessa Van Sciver, Melissa Nettleton, Melody Ransom	Frameworks and Standards Workshop \op	Medford Memorial Middle School	Oct 9, 2014	$0
Vanessa Van Sciver	New Jersey Science Convention	Princeton, NJ	Oct 15, 2014	$185
Deborah Huber	47th Annual Conference on Reading and Writing	New Brunswick, NJ	Jan 23, 2015	$180

Approved by unanimous voice vote.

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APPROVE COMPREHEN-SIVE EQUITY PLAN

Moved by Engelke, and seconded by Morgan, that the board of education approve the Comprehensive Equity Plan for 2014-2017.
Approved by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVE NURSING SERVICES PLAN

Moved by Engelke, and seconded by Morgan, that the board of education approve the Nursing Services Plan for the 2014-2015 school years.
Approved by unanimous voice vote.

HIRE KLAUS AS LDTC/ SUPERVISOR

Moved by Perno, and seconded by Stocker, that the board of education approve to hire Kimberly Klaus, as the district's a full time LDTC (Learning Disabled Teacher Consultant) and Supervisor, for the 2014-2015 school year, at a salary of $85,000 (pro-rated), starting date is January 1, 2015.
Roll call vote:
Ayes (7) Noes (0) Abstain (0) Motion carries.

APPROVE MONTUFAR'S RETIREMENT 2/1/15

Moved by Morgan, and seconded by Fuentes, that the board of education approve, with regret, the retirement letter submitted by Mr. James Montufar, special education teacher, effective February 1, 2015
Approved by unanimous voice vote.

APPOINT LEISE AS COORDINATOR

Moved by Stocker, and seconded by Perno, that the board of education approve to appoint Jeanne Leise as the Renaissance Coordinator, for the 2014-2015 school year, at a stipend of $1444.
Approved by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVE 9/23/14 MINUTES

Approve Minutes – Moved by Engelke and seconded by Perno that the board of education approve the following minutes:

September 23, 2014 Regular BOE Minutes and Closed Session
Ayes (6) Noes (0) Abstain (1) Ms. Fuentes Motion carries.

APPROVE PAYMENTS

Approve Payment of Bills – Moved by Vitiello, and seconded by Fuentes, that the board of education approve for payment the bills listed on: P 21, P 22, and P 23.
Approved by unanimous voice vote.
Pgs._____

APPROVE TRANSFERS

Account Transfers – Moved by Vitiello, and seconded by Fuentes, that the board of education approve the transfer of funds for September 2014 as attached.
Approved by unanimous voice vote.
Pg._____

APPROVE CONTRACTS

Approve Contracts – Moved by Fuentes, and seconded by Engelke, that the board of education approve the following contracts for the 2014-2015 school year:

State ID No.	School District	Program Dates	Transport.	No. of Days	Tuition Fees & Aides	Notes
9340675310	Y.A.L.E. Cherry Hill, NJ	7/2014 To 6/2015	Yes	210	$53,146.80	New Student Extended School Year Not Budgeted
2091887710	Kingsway Learning Center Mount Laurel,	9/2014 To 6/2015	Yes	180	$45,355.80	Continuing Program

	NJ					
2566396246	Woods Services Langhorne PA	7/2014 To 6/2015	Yes	240	$72,537.60 Tuition $42,120.00 One-on-one aide	Continuing Program

Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Fore, community member and reporter, was advised that there is no update to the Pennsauken/Merchantville send-receive litigation. The Comprehensive Equity Plan assures that all children are treated equally. The Renaissance Program promotes positive academic attitudes and behaviors.

Mrs. Meachum, Leslie Avenue, expressed that a one-on-one meeting with the parent, who expressed multiple concerns, would not resolve the issues shared by others. She agreed that the ad hoc committee that is being formed needs a mission statement – varying view points are needed and the board should move forward, without delay, on this process.

Mrs. Swann, Clifton Avenue, in response to her questioning the current computer material, was advised that the curriculum will be revised next summer.

Ms. Tkachuk, would like to see a new staff moral survey, and questioned why the World Language Program had to be sacrificed to increase the math contact time.

ENTER CLOSED SESSION

Recess Into Closed Session - Moved by Fuentes, and seconded by Engelke, that the board of education adjourn, by resolution, into closed session, from which the general public is excluded, to discuss matters falling under negotiations and personnel. This session is expected to last for approximately twenty (20) minutes. The results of this session will be made public immediately after, or as soon thereafter, as a decision is reached, if permitted by law. 8:47 p.m.

Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Members Present: Mr. Vitiello, Mrs. Stocker, Mrs. Perno, Ms. Engelke, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Fuentes and Mr. Morrone

Members Absent: Mr. Honigfeld and Mr. Kabel

Also Present: Mr. J. Scott Strong, CSA/Principal
Ms. Loretta Mansolino, Recording Secretary

Topic:

Negotiations
Salary guides are being reviewed by all parties
District's negotiator approved the submitted guides
If approved, the salary increases represent a larger percentage than the prior settlement
For the 15-16 school year, there would be an increase in teacher contact time
A committee will be formed to determine how this contact time will be structured
Health care co-pays would be based on the current state guide for the next three years
There would be increases to the following reimbursements:
missed preps – stipend fees – curriculum work
The new maintenance position would be incorporated into the contract
A complete copy of the tentative agreement will be distributed to all members for review

CSA's Review
Mr. Strong did not receive a "RICE" letter and the item was not on the agenda
Board president is working on the final document

ADD GILLIS TO SUB LIST

Approve to add Mrs. Margaret Gillis to the list of substitutes for the 2014-2015 school year - for the board of education to approve the recommendation of the chief school administrator and add Mrs. Margaret Gillis, Merchantville, NJ, to the list of substitute nurses for the 2014-2015 school year.
Approved by unanimous voice vote.

RETURN TO OPEN

Resumption of Public Portion - Moved by Fuentes, and seconded by Engelke, that the board of education approve to return to open session.
Approved by unanimous voice vote. 9:04 p.m.

ADJOURN

Adjourn – Moved by Perno, and seconded by Vitiello, that the board of education approve to adjourn this meeting.
Approved by unanimous voice vote. 9:05 p.m.

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Loretta Mansolino, Recording Secretary

ADDENDUM

Approve to add Mrs. Margaret Gillis to the list of substitutes for the 2014-2015 school year - for the board of education to approve the recommendation of the chief school administrator and add Mrs. Margaret Gillis, Merchantville, NJ, to the list of substitute nurses for the 2014-2015 school year.